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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/05/2022
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY: SECDEF'S MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER
GONUL AT MANAMA DIALOGUE

Classified By: Ambassador Ross Wilson for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

Summary

11. (S) Our real-time intelligence and cooperation with Turkey in attacking PKK encampments in northern Iraq has turned around a relationship that soured in September and October due to the Armenian genocide resolution and PKK attacks. You should highlight our commitment to helping Turkey combat the PKK. We can use this cooperation to leverage a change in our bilateral military engagement, which the High Level Defense Group (HLDG) meeting in late January can move forward. Regarding the new National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear efforts, you should stress the need to keep the pressure on Iran not to re-start its nuclear weapons program. You may also wish to encourage Turkey to consider additional contributions to ISAF to ensure NATO's success in Afghanistan. End Summary.

Intense Cooperation Against PKK

12. (S) We are engaged in intense intelligence sharing with Turkey against the PKK terrorist threat from northern Iraq. Based on President Bush's November 5 commitment to Prime Minister Erdogan to provide Turkey real-time intelligence, we have made available to the Turks a dedicated RC-135 Rivet Joint aircraft, U-2 imagery, and full motion video from a Predator UAV. Our Office of Defense Cooperation has stood up a combined intelligence fusion cell where U.S. and Turkish personnel work side-by-side to analyze incoming intelligence from these systems. This exercise bodes well for future cooperation in other areas as well.

13. (S) Based on this intelligence, the Turkish military has, on several occasions, fired artillery at concentrations of PKK fighters in northern Iraq. Although Turkish strikes have had negligible military effect, the Turkish government now sees that we are serious about helping Turkey combat the PKK threat. Military and government officials publicly announced a December 1 artillery attack against PKK terrorists, noting that it was based on intelligence information, which the press interpreted to mean provided by the U.S.

14. (S) Meanwhile, the government has announced that the military has full authority to conduct further strikes into northern Iraq. We believe the GOT will continue to engage targets of opportunity in northern Iraq identified by intelligence platforms with artillery. Limited air and ground incursions are also possible, and we are working with

the Turks to establish agreed de-confliction and notification procedures to ensure Turkish operations are deconflicted from US forces in northern Iraq. The military and government have made it clear in public announcements that they do not intend to target Kurdish civilians or Peshmerga. In this regard, you may wish to stress the following:

-- We expect sufficient advance notification of any air or ground incursion to clear the battle space of US forces and position US intelligence assets to support and monitor Turkish operations.

-- We must find an agreed mechanism to ensure Iraqi authorities are notified appropriately.

-- Battle space deconfliction should be accomplished in a mutually agreed manner before any Turkish action.

(If asked about future availability of specific platforms: The U-2 and Predator are low-density, high-demand assets that are used to meet many requirements world-wide. In support of President Bush's commitment to provide real-time intelligence against the PKK terrorist threat, we will endeavor to make appropriate assets available. We may need to change the mix from time-to-time to meet other operational needs.)

(If asked about direct feed of Predator data into TGS HQ: We believe the Combined Intelligence Fusion Cell, which is jointly manned 24/7 by Turks and Americans, will most effectively serve Turkey's needs.)

Iran Nuclear

15. (C) The Turkish government is looking closely at the key judgments in the National Intelligence Estimate on Iran's nuclear program. You may wish to stress with Gonul that it is clear Iran has had a nuclear weapons program which it appears to have halted due to international pressure and isolation. It continues its uranium enrichment program despite UN Security Council resolutions and could restart its nuclear weapons program at any time. Iran is still pursuing an advanced ballistic missile capability as well. This argues for continued pressure on Iran to restore international confidence in the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear fuel cycle.

ISAF and NATO Success in Afghanistan

16. (C) Turkey remains a prominent contributor to ISAF, operates a PRT in Wardak, and contributes significantly to humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. The GOT is considering contributing one or more OMLTs as well. Turkey maintains serious caveats on its forces in ISAF, however, and could contribute more to address shortfall areas identified by SACEUR. You may wish to encourage Gonul to consider seriously where Turkey can contribute further to ensuring that NATO's first out of area mission is successful.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON